

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /033 W
-----281939Z 030165 /43

P 281031Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3185

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AVIATION SECURITY

REF: (A) LONDON 13473 (8/25/76);

(B) LONDON A-475 (7/7/76);

(C) LONDON 9490 (6/18/76)

(D) LONDON 5459 (4/1/77)

(E) LONDON A-248 (4/1/77)

1. DEPT. OF TRADE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY AT
UK AIRPORTS (FARMERY) VISITED EMBASSY APR. 27 TO REQUEST
ASSISTANCE OF USG IN OBTAINING COOPERATION OF US CHARTER
CARRIERS IN PAYMENT OF PRE-BOARDING INSPECTION FEES AT
GATWICK (REFTELS).

2. SINCE PRE-BOARDING INSPECTION APPLIED TO CHARTERS BY
UK LAST YEAR, US CARRIERS, WHEN THEY USE STERILE AREAS
AT GATWICK AIRPORT, HAVE BEEN CHARGED FOR SERVICES PRO-
VIDED AND HAVE PAID COSTS INVOLVED. AS NOTED REFTELS,
ONLY UK CHARTER CARRIERS REQUIRED TO HAVE PRE-BOARDING
SCREENING OF PASSENGERS BUT DUE PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF GATWIC
AND STERILE AREA CONCEPT APPLIED BY UK, WHEN US (OR OTHER
FOREIGN CARRIERS) FLIGHTS ARE DIRECTED THROUGH STERILE
AREAS THEY MUST ALSO USE PRE-BOARDING SCREENING. WE ARE
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INFORMED THAT MAJORITY OF US CARRIER CHARTER PASSENGERS
AT GATWICK USE STERILE AREAS.

3. NOW, US CARRIERS WORLD, TIA AND OVERSEAS NATIONAL HAVE
INFORMED DEPT. OF TRADE THAT THEY ARE RECONSIDERING PAY-
MENT FOR SCREENING SERVICE (NOW 50 PENCE PER PASSENGER AT
GATWICK NORTH PIER AND SOMEWHAT LESS IN COACH STATION

AREA) AND HAVE SAID THEY WILL INFORM UK OF DECISION BY MAY 1 WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL IN FUTURE REFUSE TO PAY FEES.

4. FARMERY POINTED OUT ONLY US CARRIERS AND CANADIAN CARRIERS SUBJECT TO PAY FEES SINCE THEIR GOVERNMENTS DO NOT PROVIDE ON RECIPROCAL BASIS FOR BRITISH CARRIERS, FREE INSPECTION OF PASSENGERS. CANADIANS ARE PAYING FEES, THUS ONLY US CARRIERS MAY UPSET SYSTEM IF THEY REFUSE TO PAY. REFUSAL TO PAY WOULD RESULT IN REFUSAL TO INSPECT US PASSENGERS BY PRIVATE UK AGENCY WHICH PERFORMS INSPECTIONS FOR UK GOVERNMENT. THIS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO UK SINCE UN-INSPECTED US PASSENGERS WOULD COMPROMISE STERILE AREA AND SECURITY.

5. FARMERY ASKED WHAT INFLUENCE US GOVERNMENT MIGHT EXERCISE TO HAVE US CARRIERS COOPERATE WITH UK SYSTEM AND CONTINUE TO PAY FOR INSPECTION SERVICES. HE SAID IF US CARRIERS REFUSED PAYMENT ON VOLUNTARY BASIS, UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE WOULD BE FORCED TO ISSUE DIRECTIVE WITH WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY UNDER UK LAW. THE UK IS RELUCTANT TO DO THIS, HOWEVER, AND PREFERS TO OBTAIN CARRIERS' COOPERATION.

6. COMMENT: WE POINTED OUT TO FARMERY THAT CHARTER CARRIERS IN US ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE PASSENGERS INSPECTED BEFORE BOARDING. FOR THIS REASON, IT DID NOT APPEAR THERE WAS ANY LEGAL BASIS FOR REQUIRING US CARRIERS TO PAY FOR INSPECTION IN UK OR ELSEWHERE IN ABSENCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCAL LAW REQUIRING SUCH ACTION. FARMERY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POSITION BUT ASKED IF US GOVERNMENT COULD USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO PERSUADE ONA, TIA AND WORLD TO CO-OPERATE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WHICH WE MAY PROVIDE TO DEPT. OF TRADE ON THIS PROBLEM, BY MAY 1 IF POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR SAFETY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON06901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770149-0061
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770410/aaaaahxr.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9e1b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 13473, 77 LONDON A-475, 77 LONDON 9490
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2660100
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: AVIATION SECURITY
TAGS: EAIR, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9e1b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009